



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



WELCOME

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council September 16, 2025



AGENDA ITEMS

- **Budget Implementation**
- **High Level Report Card Overview**
- **Virtual Meeting Policy**
- **DEW Update & New Business**



DROPOUT PREVENTION & RECOVERY

ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION

- Effective September 30, 2025, DOPR schools must administer the state-mandated reading and math assessment to all students ages 14-21
- All students enrolled for a minimum of 13 weeks or more over the course of the school year must be tested twice
- Failure to test students may result in removal of the DOPR designation

How do we ensure that students are tested?



PHASE-OUT OF YOUNGER ENROLLEES

- Students who do not meet the age requirement may continue to enroll in a DOPR school until June 30, 2027.
- Beginning July 1, 2027, only students age 14 years by September 30 or older can enroll in a DOPR-designated school. Students younger than age 14 will no longer be eligible to enroll in a DOPR school.





ADDITIONAL BUDGET UPDATES

SPONSOR ASSURANCES

- Beginning September 30, House Bill 96 reduces the number of days in which a sponsor can submit their Sponsor Assurance for any community school opening for its first year of operation or in a new location from 10 to 5 business days.
- For schools adding a new facility to an existing IRN or an e-school moving to a different location or opening a satellite, sponsors must submit assurances a minimum of 1 day in advance of opening.

3-YEAR FORECASTS

- Reduces school forecast periods from 5 to 3 years.
- Sets submission deadlines (Aug 31, Feb 28) and delays FY26 initial submission to Oct 15, 2025.
- The updated template will be shared soon

MULTIPLE FACILITIES

- Removes all restrictions on community schools being located in multiple facilities

SPONSOR EVALUATIONS

- Requires DEW to evaluate all sponsors for the 2025–2026 school year.
 - “Exemplary” rating = 6-year cycle
 - “Effective” rating = 4-year cycle
- Allows sponsors to take advantage of incentives after 1 “exemplary” rating.
- Removes schools closed or terminated by the sponsor from the Academic Component.
- The Sponsor Evaluation team is hosting a webinar in October

CELL PHONES & AI

- Ohio law requires each [school district](#), [community school](#), and [STEM school](#) to adopt a policy prohibiting cell phone use by students during the instructional day by Jan. 1, 2026.
- House Bill 96 requires DEW to develop a model policy on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) by December 31, 2025.

SCIENCE OF READING

- House Bill 96 requires DEW to maintain an introductory Science of Reading course and develop a competency-based refresher course.
- Beginning July 1, 2027, school psychologists and speech-language pathologists to complete the introductory course to the Science of Reading.
- Educators are required to complete the refresher course in the Science of Reading every 5 years.

SCIENCE OF READING

- Based on grade levels served, community schools must adopt core and or intervention curriculum materials aligned to the Science of Reading --- This includes dropout recovery schools



REPORT CARD OVERVIEW

DROPOUT RECOVERY SCHOOL RATINGS

- Total of 81 schools operated during 2024-25
 - One school overall rating of "does not meet standards"
 - 37 schools overall rating of "meets standards"
 - 43 schools overall rating of "exceeds standards"

This is the same distribution of ratings as for 2023-24.

COLLEGE, CAREER, WORKFORCE, AND MILITARY READINESS

- As a part of the ongoing [report card training series](#), the Department will host sessions on [Monday, Sept. 22 and Tuesday, Sept. 23](#) to provide a deep dive into the calculations used in the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness component on the traditional Ohio School Report Cards and Post-Secondary Readiness component on the Career-Technical Planning District report cards.



VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY



DEW UPDATES

DEW UPDATES

- Announcing [Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics](#)
- Implementation strategies to support success with Zearn - administrators are [invited to complete this brief form](#) and share their plans to meet the key implementation commitments essential for the program's success.
- [Report Card training hub](#) – virtual trainings and pre-recorded videos available
- Reminder: [Report required immunization status to ODH](#) by Oct. 15



VERIFYING USE OF HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- Districts and schools were required to use [high-quality instructional materials for core instruction and intervention in English language arts](#) from the approved state list by the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- During the 2025-2026 school year, the Department will conduct a monitoring process to verify the information reported in EMIS for these materials.

VERIFYING USE OF HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- The desk audit process will begin in the fall of 2025. Ten percent of Ohio's public school districts, STEM schools, and community schools will be selected to submit documentation verifying the purchase, adoption, and implementation of prekindergarten through grade 5 core curriculum and instructional materials from the [approved list](#).
- Selected schools will be notified with instructions and timelines for submitting the required documentation.



NEW BUSINESS

QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU

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